Heavenly Children

The Little Philosopher

Imam al-Askari (A)

13

SUGGESTED AGES 7+

KISA KIDS PUBLICATIONS
Under the Guidance of Moulana Nabi R. Mir (Abidi)

Disclaimer: Religious texts have ***not*** been translated verbatim so as to meet the developmental and comprehension needs of children.

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Dedication

This book is dedicated to the beloved Imām of our time (ʿaj).
May Allah (swt) hasten his reappearance and help us to become his true companions.

Original Author

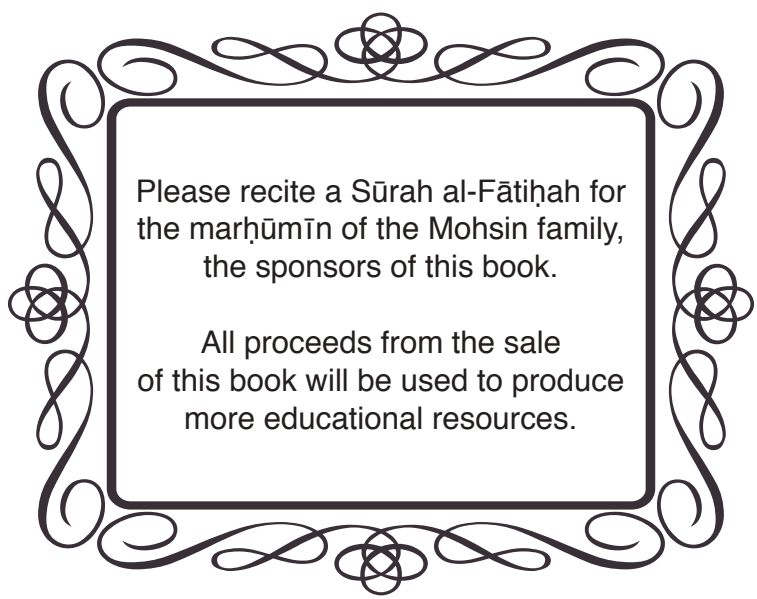
Abul Faḍl Hādī Manish

Acknowledgments

Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ): On the Day of Resurrection, the ink of the scholars will be weighed up against the blood of the martyrs, and the ink of the scholars will be heavier than the blood of the martyrs.
Nahj al-Faṣāḥah, Saying #3222.

True reward lies with Allah (swt), but we would like to sincerely thank Shaykh Salim Yusufali, Brother Aliakbar Shaheidari, Sisters Sabika Mithani, Fatemah Mithani, Amna Hussain, Asieh Zarghami, Zahra Sabur, Sajeda Merchant, Kisae Nazar, Sarah Assaf, Nadia Dossani, Fathema Abidi, Fatemeh Eslami, Fatima Hussain, Fatemah Meghji, Abeda Khimji, Sakeena Kalyan, Zehra Abbas, and Rumina Hashmani. We would especially like to thank Nainava Publications for their artwork and contributions.

May Allah (swt) bless them in this world and the next.


Please recite a Sūrah al-Fātiḥah for the marḥūmīn of the Mohsin family, the sponsors of this book.
All proceeds from the sale of this book will be used to produce more educational resources.

Transliteration Chart

Arabic terms in this book have been transliterated according to the following guidelines*:

ء	a, i, or u (initial form)
ء	ʾ (medial or final form)
ا	a
ب	b
ت	t
ث	th
ج	j
ح	ḥ
خ	kh
د	d
ذ	dh
ر	r
ز	z
س	s
ش	sh
ص	ṣ
ض	ḍ
ط	ṭ
ظ	ẓ
ع	ʿ
غ	gh
ف	f
ق	q
ك	k
ل	l
م	m
ن	n
ه	h
و	w
ي	y

ـَ	a
ـِ	i
ـُ	u
ـّ	double letter
آ / ـَا / ىٰ	ā
ـِي	ī
ـُو	ū

*Please note that due to limitations, the transliteration is not 100% accurate in capturing tajwīd rules.

Preface

Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ):
Nurture and raise your children in the best way. Raise them with the love of the Prophets and the Ahl al-Bayt (ʿa).

Literature is an influential form of media that often shapes the thoughts and views of an entire generation. Therefore, in order to establish an Islamic foundation for the future generations, there is a dire need for compelling Islamic literature. Over the past several years, this need has become increasingly prevalent throughout Islamic centers and schools everywhere. Due to the growing dissonance between parents, children, society, and the teachings of Islam and the Ahl al-Bayt (ʿa), this need has become even more pressing. Al-Kisa Foundation, along with its subsidiary, Kisa Kids Publications, was conceived in an effort to help bridge this gap with the guidance of ʿulamāʾ and the help of educators. We would like to make this a communal effort and platform. Therefore, we sincerely welcome constructive feedback and help in any capacity.

The goal of the *Heavenly Children* series is to foster the love of Ahl al-Bayt (ʿa) in children and to help them establish the 14 Maʿṣūmīn as their role models. We hope that you and your children enjoy these books and use them as a means to achieve this goal, inshāʾAllāh. We pray to Allah to give us the strength and *tawfīq* to perform our duties and responsibilities.

With Duʿās,
Nabi R. Mir (Abidi)

About the Board ʿĀlim

Moulana Nabi R. Mir (Abidi) is a scholar, an educator, a father, and an enthusiast for creating educational infrastructure and Islamic resources for the benefit of the global community. Always wanting to think 'outside of the box' by supporting the creation of innovative materials to engage young readers to pick up Islamic books, interact with Qurʾānic games, learn from the Steps to Perfection Curriculum, and begin their life-long journey of holistic education.

Being a dedicated student and graduate of *Darse Khārij* from the *Ḥawzah* (the Highest Level of Islamic Studies in the Seminary), Moulana Abidi knows the value of Islamic education. Also, having grown up in India, and now residing in the United States, he has had the honor of traveling to various communities and meeting many community leaders. He values the importance of collaboration and working together to optimize potentials, and to create open source platforms so that information and resources are available and accessible to everyone around the world.

You, dear reader, are now part of the Al-Kisa family.
Share the word, and join the mission.

Ahmad, Mama and Baba had been sitting for hours now. They were talking about all the places they would visit on their ziyārah trip to see the fourteen Maʿṣūmīn. Mama had told a wonderful story about Imām al-Hādī (ʿa) guiding the people even as an eight-year-old Imām.

"Wow, what a great person Imām al-Hādī (ʿa) was," Ahmad marveled. "So Imām al-Hādī (ʿa) is buried in Sāmarrāʾ. Is anyone else there?" Ahmad asked his parents.

"Our eleventh Imām, Imām Ḥasan al-ʿAskarī (ʿa), the son of Imām al-Hādī (ʿa) and Haḍrat Sawsan, is also buried in Sāmarrāʾ. He was born on the 8th of Rabīʿ ath-Thānī and was martyred on the 8th of Rabīʿ al-Awwal," Baba said matter-of-factly.

"Was he also a young boy when he became the Imām, like his father and grandfather?" Ahmad asked.

"No, my dear," Mama said. "He became the Imām when he was twenty-two years old, after his father was martyred. Sadly, he himself was martyred at a very young age. He was the Imām for only six years. The evil caliph knew that Imām Ḥasan al-ʿAskarī (ʿa) would be the father of the final Imām, who would fill the world with justice and peace. He wanted to stop this from happening, so he kept Imām al-ʿAskarī (ʿa) under house arrest."

"What is house arrest?" Ahmad wondered.

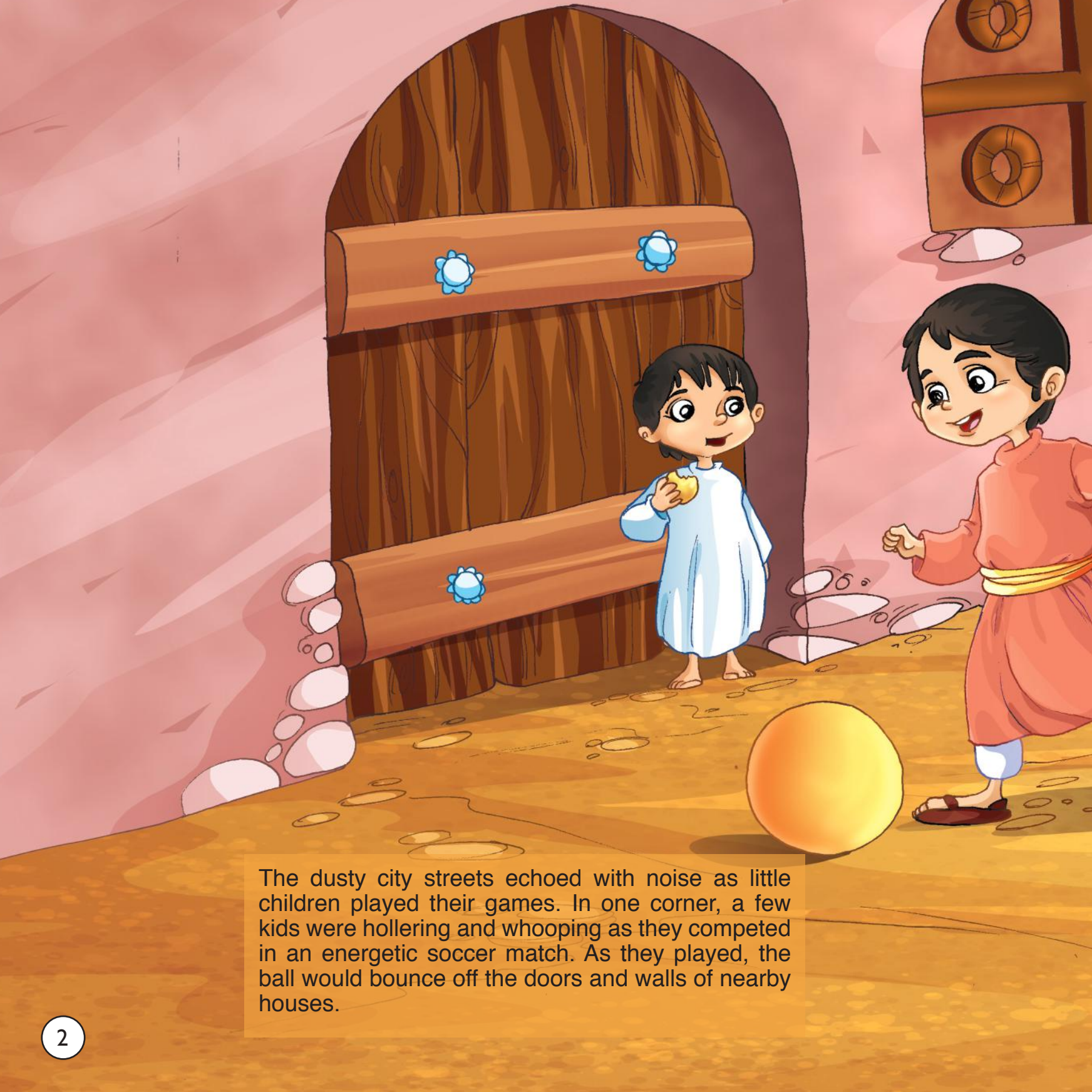
"It's like being put in prison in your own home. The Imām (ʿa) wasn't allowed to leave his home. Only people who the caliph allowed to enter the house were able to go, like his own guards. The Imām (ʿa) was basically a prisoner." Baba shook his head sadly.

"So then what happened?" Ahmad asked.

"Alḥamdulillāh, Imām al-ʿAskarī (ʿa) married Haḍrat Narjis, and through Allah's miracle, she secretly gave birth to our 12th Imām (ʿaj). The caliph had planned to kidnap any baby of the Imām, but you see, Allah is the best of planners. Always having an Imām as a guide for the people is part of Allah's plan. When Imām al-ʿAskarī (ʿa) was poisoned by the caliph, it was the twelfth Imām (ʿaj) who led his father's funeral prayers. This proved to everyone that he was alive and he is the last Imām!"

"It sounds like Imām al-ʿAskarī (ʿa) had a hard life. Is there a story about him you could tell me?" Ahmad asked.

"I know a story from his childhood that you'll enjoy hearing," Baba said.



The dusty city streets echoed with noise as little children played their games. In one corner, a few kids were hollering and whooping as they competed in an energetic soccer match. As they played, the ball would bounce off the doors and walls of nearby houses.

On the other side of the street, children were pretending to be sword-fighting, trying to see who would be the best soldier amongst them.

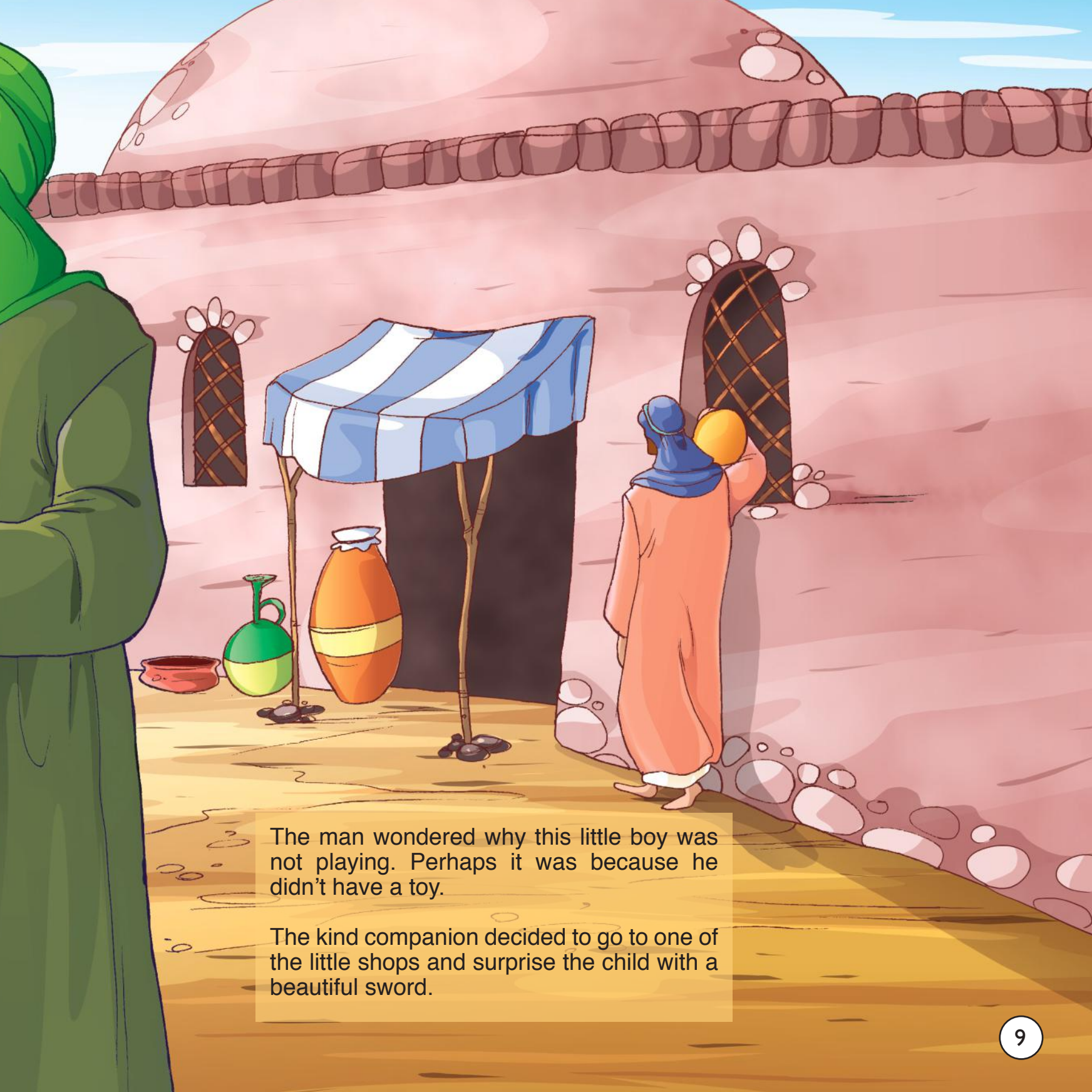
Meanwhile, on the doorstep of a nearby house, some children were spinning colorful tops, challenging each other to spin their tops the longest, laughing each time the tops tumbled.

Occasionally, a weary mother would pop her head out of a doorway to plead for some quiet. Finally, one woman emerged from her door, waving a broom in her hand. “Why are you making so much noise?! Don’t you have somewhere else you can play?!” she shouted.

Just then, a very tall man walked through the street. He wore a white *thobe* with a green *ʿabāʾ* draped over his shoulders. From his demeanor, it was clear he was one of the companions of Imām al-Hādī (ʿa).

Some children sat in his path, but the man didn't want to disturb their games. He waited for them to finish and then walked through once they had cleared the way. Several times, the children even ran right into him, brushing past his legs or into his *thobe*, but he would just smile at all the fun they were having.

As he continued on his walk, the man came across one child unlike the rest. Instead of playing with friends, he was quietly sitting by himself on the steps of a house. He seemed to be observing the other children's games.



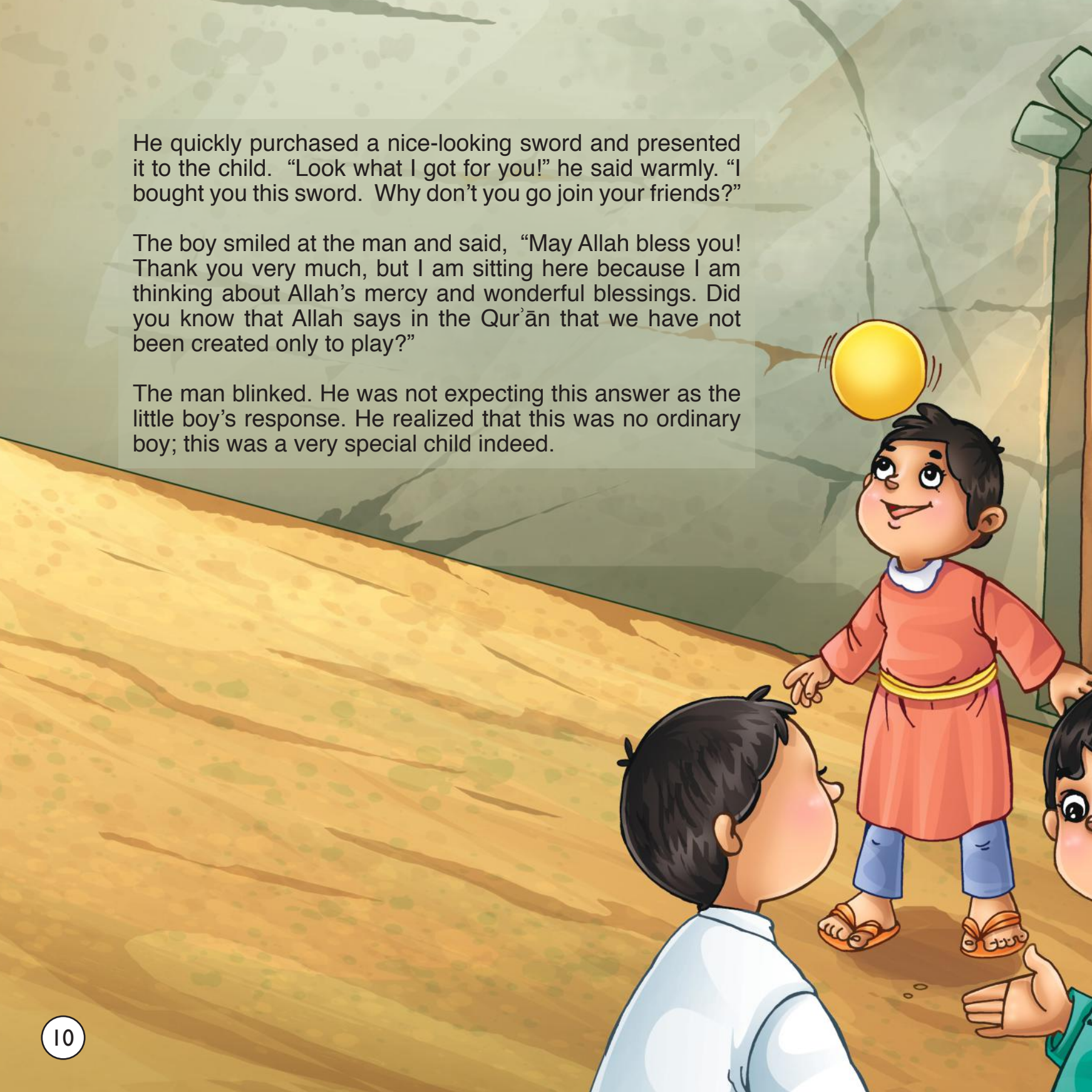
The man wondered why this little boy was not playing. Perhaps it was because he didn't have a toy.

The kind companion decided to go to one of the little shops and surprise the child with a beautiful sword.

He quickly purchased a nice-looking sword and presented it to the child. “Look what I got for you!” he said warmly. “I bought you this sword. Why don’t you go join your friends?”

The boy smiled at the man and said, “May Allah bless you! Thank you very much, but I am sitting here because I am thinking about Allah’s mercy and wonderful blessings. Did you know that Allah says in the Qurʾān that we have not been created only to play?”

The man blinked. He was not expecting this answer as the little boy’s response. He realized that this was no ordinary boy; this was a very special child indeed.



Curious to understand the child, the man sat down next to him and asked, “So, why *have* we been created?”

Confidently, the boy replied, “To gain knowledge, make good choices, and worship Allah.”

The man became even more intrigued. “Where did you learn this from?” he asked. He expected the boy to mention his parents or teacher.

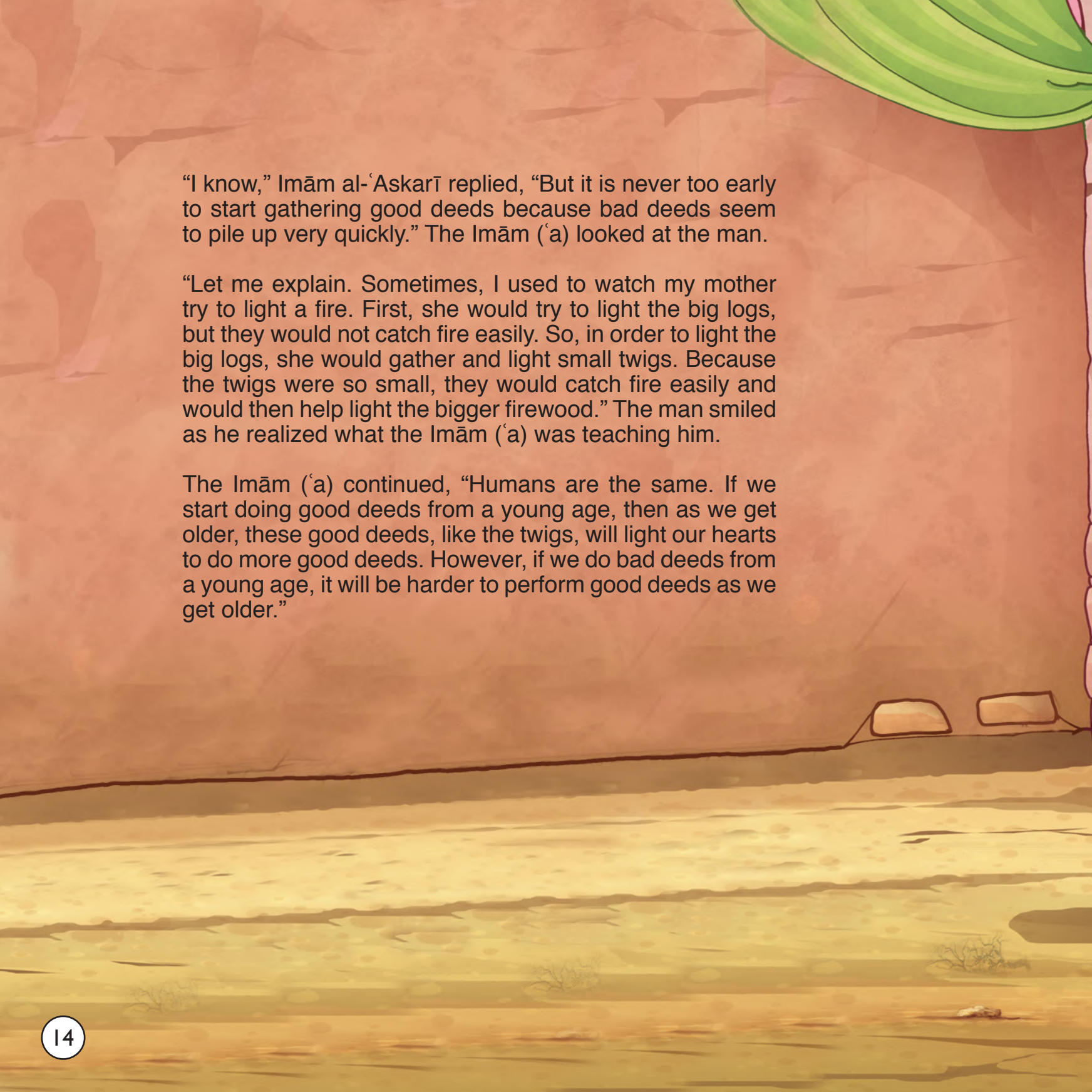
“In the Qurʾān, Allah says, ‘Do you think that you have been created without any purpose?’ (23:115),” the boy answered serenely.

Now, the man was completely shocked. This child knew the Qurʾān so well! The man knew that only an Imām could speak so beautifully. Imām al-Hādī (ʿa) would also speak this wisely and quote the Qurʾān in his discussions. Slowly, it dawned upon him. Surely, he was speaking with a child from the family of Rasūlullāh (ṣ)!

Who could this little boy be? Of course! This child was Imām Ḥasan al-ʿAskarī (ʿa), the son of Imām al-Hādī (ʿa)!

The man had one last question for the wise little Imām (ʿa). “You are just a kid! You are not even baligh*! Shouldn’t you be having fun?” he asked earnestly.

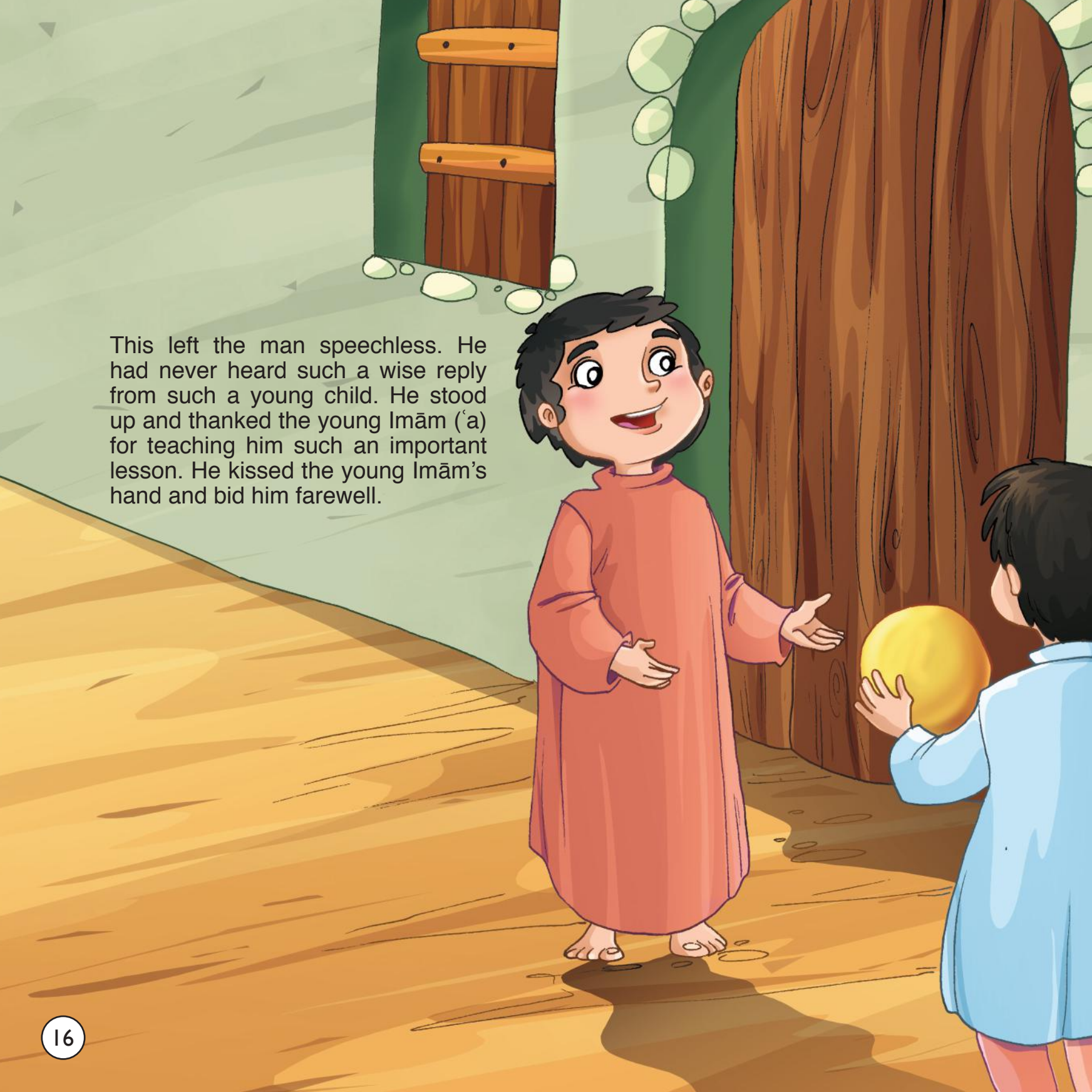
*Bāligh: when one reaches the age of responsiblity of duties towards Allah



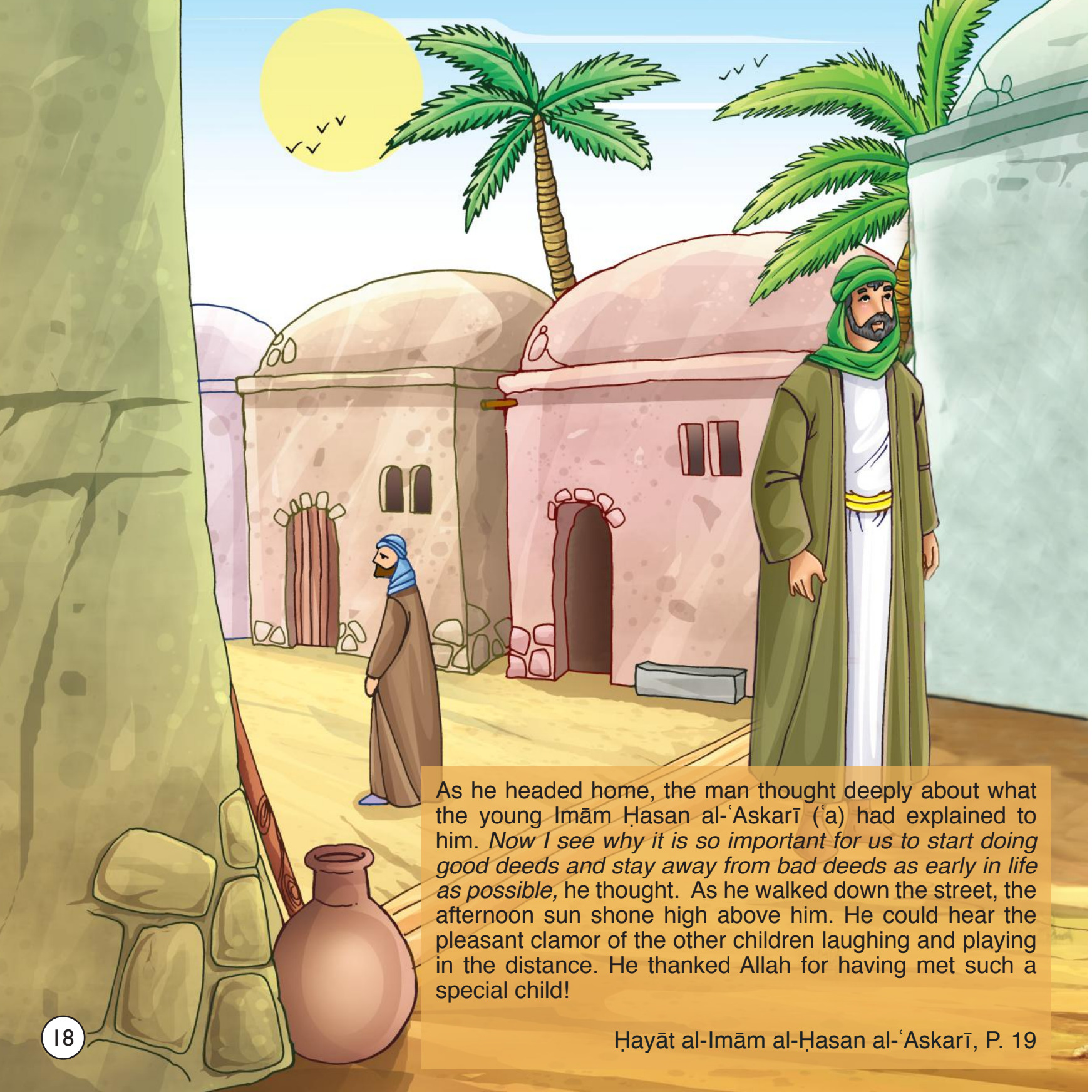
“I know,” Imām al-ʿAskarī replied, “But it is never too early to start gathering good deeds because bad deeds seem to pile up very quickly.” The Imām (ʿa) looked at the man.

“Let me explain. Sometimes, I used to watch my mother try to light a fire. First, she would try to light the big logs, but they would not catch fire easily. So, in order to light the big logs, she would gather and light small twigs. Because the twigs were so small, they would catch fire easily and would then help light the bigger firewood.” The man smiled as he realized what the Imām (ʿa) was teaching him.

The Imām (ʿa) continued, “Humans are the same. If we start doing good deeds from a young age, then as we get older, these good deeds, like the twigs, will light our hearts to do more good deeds. However, if we do bad deeds from a young age, it will be harder to perform good deeds as we get older.”



This left the man speechless. He had never heard such a wise reply from such a young child. He stood up and thanked the young Imām (ʿa) for teaching him such an important lesson. He kissed the young Imām's hand and bid him farewell.



As he headed home, the man thought deeply about what the young Imām Ḥasan al-ʿAskarī (ʿa) had explained to him. *Now I see why it is so important for us to start doing good deeds and stay away from bad deeds as early in life as possible,* he thought. As he walked down the street, the afternoon sun shone high above him. He could hear the pleasant clamor of the other children laughing and playing in the distance. He thanked Allah for having met such a special child!

Ḥayāt al-Imām al-Ḥasan al-ʿAskarī, P. 19

Glossary

(ṣ): Peace and blessings be upon Prophet Muḥammad and his family

(swt): All Glory belongs to God, the Glorified and Exalted

(ʿa): Peace and blessings be upon him/her

(ʿaj): May God hasten his reappearance

Ahl al-Bayt: Divinely appointed family members of Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ)

Akhlāq: Islamic morals and ethics

al-Fātiḥah: The first *sūrah* of the Qurʾān, which is commonly recited and sent as a gift of prayer for the deceased

Alḥamdulillāh: All praise is for God

Baba: Father

Duʿāʾ: Supplication; a deep connection and communication between an individual and God

Imām: A divinely appointed leader, sometimes refers to a spiritual leader

InshāʾAllāh: God-willing

Kaʿbah: The most Sacred Mosque for Muslims, situated in Mecca and is the direction of prayer

Mama: Mother

Marḥūmīn: Someone who has passed away

MāshāʾAllāh: As God wishes

Maʿṣūmīn: One who is inerrant (free of all sins, flaws, and impurities) through the divine protection and knowledge of Allah

Qurʾān: The holy book of Muslims

Rasūlullāh: A title referring to the Noble Prophet Muḥammad

SubḥānAllāh: All Glory and Praise belongs to God

Tawfīq: Divine blessings from God (Allah) that give one the opportunity and ability to thrive towards success

Ziyārah: Visiting the house of Allah, grave of the Noble Prophet, Imāms and other important personalities

ʿUlamāʾ: Scholars

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